

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2671

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO SISCO JUNE 3 NBC INTERVIEW

1. ISRAELI MEDIA JUN 4-5 HAVE GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO JUNE 3 NBC INTERVIEW WITH UNDERSECRETARY SISCO, QUOTING LARGE PARTS DIRECTLY. MAIN ATTENTION HAS BEEN DIRECTED TO REFERENCE IN INTERVIEW TO "LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIANS."

2. IN LENGTHY UNSIGNED EDITORIAL JUNE 5, HAARETZ COMMENTS CRITICALLY ON SISCO INTERVIEW. EDITORIALIST WRITES STATEMENT THAT THERE CAN BE NO MID EAST SETTLEMENT WITHOUT CONSIDERATION OF "THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIANS" IS VAGUE AND ARBITRARY, SINCE SISCO DOES NOT STATE WHAT THOSE RIGHTS ARE, NOR DOES THEIR QUALIFICATION AS "LEGITIMATE" CLARIFY THE MATTER. SINCE PALESTINIANS DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN EITHER 1967 OR 1973 WARS THEY CANNOT BE PARTNERS TO PEACE TREATY WITH ISRAEL. EDITORIALIST TAKES SISCO TO TASK FOR ALLEGEDLY TREATING THIS ISRAELI POSITION BY IMPLICATION AS MERE FORMALISTIC ONE

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AND ONE WHICH DOES NOT SERVE INTERESTS OF LASTING SETTLEMENT.

3. ACCORDING TO HAARETZ EDITORIALIST, SISCO STATEMENT DISREGARDS FACT THAT SUCH LEGITIMATE INTERESTS AS ARABS OF PALESTINE HAD RECOGNIZED IN 1947 UN PARTITION RESOLUTION, WHICH THEY THEMSELVES REJECTED IN EXPECTATION THAT ARAB STATES WOULD STIFLE NEW JEWISH STATE. WHAT REMAINED AFTER ARABS SUBMITTED TO JORDANIAN OCCUPATION WAS REFUGEE PROBLEM RECOGNIZED BY RESOLUTION 242. LATTER SAYS NOTHING ABOUT POLITICAL RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN ARABS WHO HAD BEEN CITIZENS OF PALESTINE AND HAD BECOME CITIZENS OF JORDAN. ANY ATTEMPT NOW TO GRAFT POLITICAL IMPLICATION ONTO RESOLUTION 242 WOULD UPSET VERY BASIS ON WHICH ANY ATTEMPT TO PACIFY MID EAST IS BASED.

4. EDITORIAL CONTINUES THAT ISRAELI POSITION SAYING THAT ARABS ON WEST BANK HAVE NO "LEGITIMATE RIGHTS" TO DEMAND FROM ISRAEL IS NOT ONLY FORMALISTIC. THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT ARAB STATE ON WEST BANK AND IN GAZA WOULD WANT TO MAINTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. ON CONTRARY, THERE ARE GROUNDS TO EXPECT THAT IT WOULD BE HOSTILE TO ISRAEL, A BASE FOR TERRORIST OPERATIONS AGAINST IT. SUCH STATE WOULD REGARD IT AS ITS DESTINY TO TAKE OVER AT LEAST THOSE PARTS OF ISRAEL ALLOCATED TO AN ARAB STATE UNDER 1947 PARTITION PLAN. RABIN WAS CORRECT IN SAYING ISRAEL WOULD NOT LEND ITSELF TO THAT.

5. EDITORIAL STRESSES IN CONCLUSION THAT ISRAELI CONCESSIONS IN NEGOTIATION OF SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT SHOULD NOT LEAD TO US SUPPOSITION THAT " SOMETHING SIMILAR WILL HAPPEN" AS REGARDS WEST BANK AND GAZA. ISRAEL WILL KNOW HOW TO STRUGGLE " EVEN WITH A FRIENDLY COUNTRY LIKE THE US" TO PRESERVE ITS LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN INSISTING THAT AREAS IT WILL BE PREPARED TO EVACUATE WILL NOT BECOME BASES FOR AGGRESSION AGAINST IT.

6. YEDIOT AHARONOT UNSIGNED EDITORIAL JUNE 4 COMMENTS THAT SECRETARY DURING HIS STAY IN ISRAEL DID NOT DISCUSS HIS VIEW OF FINAL RESOLUTION OF PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IN MID EAST SETTLEMENT BECAUSE " AS HE SAID TO YEDIOT CORRESPONDENT LAHAV ON ONE OCCASION, HE DID NOT CARE TO ANSWER." SISCO'S REMARKS MAY WELL BE START OF "SOME PRELIMINARY BRAINWASHING OF ISRAEL MINISTERS." IT IS RUMORED THAT SECRETARY HAD PROMISED ASAD TO TRY AND FIND UNCLASSIFIED

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ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE ON "PALESTINIAN PROBLEM." ISRAELIS SO FAR WERE NOT BEING TOLD WHAT THIS MIGHT BE," BUT WE HAD BETTER TAKE CARE."

7. LIKUD ADVERTISEMENT IN HAARETZ JUNE 5, IN NOTING SISCO STATEMENT ON PORTION OF RABIN SPEECH DEALING WITH GOI REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS, COMMENTS THAT THIS IS ONE OF "SHAMEFUL RESULTS"

OF ISRAELI AGREEMENT TO WITHDRAW BEYOND PURPLE LINE ON GOLAN. SISCO BELIEVED HE HAD LEARNED FROM RECENT NEGOTIATIONS THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE TO LEAN ON GOI TO CHANGE ITS POSITION. IT WAS ISRAEL'S OWN FAULT THAT ITS REPUTATION HAD REACHED THIS POINT WHEN OUTSIDERS QUESTIONED OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF PRIME MINISTER FROMKNESSET PODIUM.

8. CONGRESSMAN BERTRAM PODELL (DEM-NEW YORK), CURRENTLY IN ISRAEL ON VISIT SPONSORED BY GOI, IS QUOTED IN JERUSALEMPOST JUNE 5 AS SAYING THAT SISCO WAS RIGHT IN STATING THAT PALESTINIAN ISSUE NEEDED " A DEFINITION AND A SOLUTION." HOWEVER, " MR SISCO DID NOT SAY WHAT THE DEFINITIONS WERE." VELIOTES

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